

**REMARKS****I. Introduction**

Claims 1-14 and 19-39 have been cancelled. Claims 40-64 have been added. No new matter has been added.

**II. Objections**

Fig. 3 has been objected because reference numeral "8" should be "9". Fig. 3 has been amended.

**III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C §102(b)****(1) Claims 15-18**

Claims 1-39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshida et al. (U.S.P. 6,195,814). The rejection of claims 1-14 and 19-39 is rendered moot by the cancellation of those claims. Claims 15-19 are patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants have amended Claim 15 as an independent claim. A water shower apparatus as recited by Claim 15 includes the feature of:

-- wherein said arm includes a nozzle header, and said nozzle header is installed rotatably around the nozzle axis--

Thus, Claim 15 expressly recites that the apparatus comprises a nozzle header on the arm and that the nozzle header is rotatable around the arm axis.

Yoshida does not disclose a nozzle header where the nozzle header is rotatable around the arm axis. Yoshida only discloses arms and water spray nozzles which are placed directly on the arms (Fig. 11, Fig 31 etc.).

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 15 is not anticipated by Yoshida et al. (U.S.P 6,195,814). Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 16-18 are allowable by virtue of their dependency on allowable claim 15.

**(2) Claims 40-55**

Newly added claim 40 includes the feature of:

-- the arms are movable towards and away from each other.--

Claim 40 is supported by the original specification at page 52, line 21-23:

-- And, the telescopic arm means 51a, 51b are set in the direction in which the path of the extending arms 51a, 51b widens. --

This feature widens the showering range wrapping the bather's body (page 53, line7-8).

Yoshida does not disclose the feature of the arms which are movable towards and away from each other. In Yoshida, the arms 47 disclosed in Fig. 11 rotate vertically through axes 28A, so the arms 47 are **not** movable towards and away from each other.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the claim 40 is patentable over the art of record.

With respect to dependent claims 41-55, the dependent claims are also allowable by virtue of their dependency on allowable claim 40.

**(3) Claims 56-64**

Newly added claim 56 includes the feature of:

-- a plurality of first spray nozzles -- (omit)-- spraying a substantially flat spray of water in a substantially vertical plane --

This claim is supported by the original claims 9 and 35, and the original Fig. 1, 2, and 3.

This feature achieves a cold air intercepting action, especially from lower sides. Because cold air is heavier than hot air and the cold air flows from lower side to around of the bather, the flat spray of water in a substantially vertical plane can intercept the cold air from lower side.

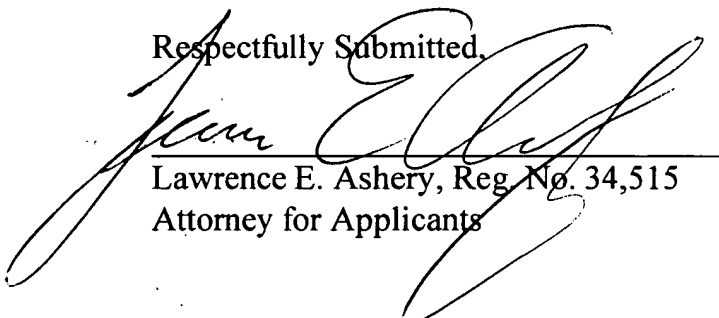
Yoshida does not disclose the feature spraying water in a vertical plane. Rather, Yoshida discloses that nozzle 70 sprays water film (Col 26, line 61-62). But the purpose for forming the water film is to shield the hot water mist by this film (Col 27, line 19-20). Because the hot water mist is lighter than cold air, the hot water mist rises towards the ceiling of the bathroom. By forming the water film, the head of the bather is not disposed by the hot water mist and is kept cool. Thus, the bather can enjoy the feeling of bathtub bathing (Col 27 13-28). For achieving this advantage, the water film must be formed horizontally because the water film has a role of water level in tub bathing.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the claim 56 is patentable over the art of record.

With respect to dependent claims 57-64, the dependent claims are also allowable because all the limitations of independent claim 56 are contained in the dependent claims 57-64.

In view of the amendments and arguments, the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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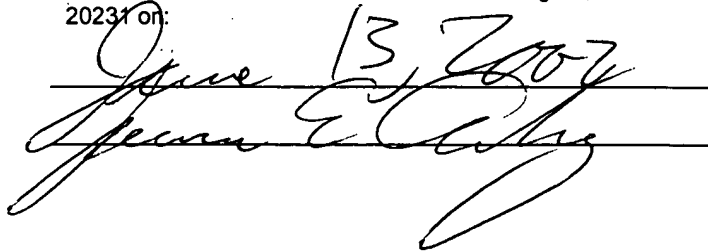
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Letter to Official Draftsperson

Dated: June 13, 2002

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**VERSION WITH MARKING TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

15. (As Amended) A water shower apparatus [as defined in Claim 1,] comprising:

a main body [of the water shower apparatus] positioned behind the back of [said] a bather, and

an [nozzle moving] arm supported movably on said main body [of water shower apparatus], said arm having an arm axis which extends from an end of said arm,

wherein said [nozzle moving] arm includes a nozzle header, [and] said nozzle header [is installed rotatably around the nozzle moving arm axis] rotates about the arm axis.

16. (As Amended) A water shower apparatus as defined in Claim 15,

wherein said nozzle header comprises a plurality of spray nozzles, and [respective] each of said spray nozzles [of said plurality of spray nozzles] has different spraying patterns, respectively.

17. (As Amended) A water shower apparatus as defined in Claim 15,

wherein said nozzle header has a connecting means, and said connecting means is detachably connected to said [nozzle moving] arm.

18. (As Amended) A water shower apparatus as defined in Claim 15,

wherein said nozzle header includes an extension and contraction means, and said [nozzle moving] arm moves through said extension and contraction means from said main body [of water shower apparatus].

Claims 1-14 and 19-39 have been cancelled.

Claims 40-64 have been newly added.